

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and on packet bulletin boards.

### SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that the Council of the SARL announces the passing away of Mr. J.C.M. Bosch, who was at the Post Office (Telecommunications) Head Office for many years. His signature appears on many amateur licences. Mr Bosch passed away in mid March after suffering a heart attack. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

### PAUSE

In the news today:

### CHAIRMEN S INDABA

### RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR PRIZE MONEY INCREASED

### SCOPEX EXHIBITION

### SARL INTECNET TO FOCUS ON WEAK SIGNAL RECEPTION

### MICROWAVE AND DIGITAL CONTEST

Stay tuned for more detail about this and other news items.

Also visit the SARL website or contact the SARL office, which is open from 09:00 to 13:00 on weekdays, by telephone 011 675-2393 for information how to join the SARL, book sales and other relevant amateur radio matters.

Clubs and individuals are invited to submit news items of interest to amateurs to [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English. You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news in detail follows:

### CHAIRMEN S INDABA

Sid Tyler ZS6AYC, President of the SARL reminds SARL members that at the SARL AGM it was requested that branches, clubs and members must look at ways of sorting out the budget for 2004 and come forward with proposals. To look at what progress has been made, it has been decided to hold a Chairmen s Indaba starting at 09:00 on Saturday 10 May at the NARC to discuss the various

proposals and ideas. All branch and club chairmen and interested members are invited to attend and to bring their proposals along.

#### RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS PRIZE MONEY INCREASED

The Prize money of the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards has been increased to R1 500 while both the Radio Amateur and Young Radio Amateur of the Year will receive the latest ARRL Handbook with the compliments of ECS and a stainless steel pen and pencil set from Telkom.

Nominations for the awards are now invited. Full details are available on request from the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust by sending an Email to [saardt@intekom.co.za](mailto:saardt@intekom.co.za) or a fax to 012 991 5651. The brochure explaining the award and entry form will shortly also be available on the SARL web at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

The senior award is made for the support and development of the Amateur Radio Service in South Africa, not for individual achievements such as DXCC and other operational awards or contests. The recipient will be a person who has devoted of his or her expertise and time to the promotion and/ or technical enhancement of Amateur Radio in South Africa.

The Young Radio Amateur of the Year award is made to a young Radio Amateur, under the age of 25 years, who has excelled in promoting and developing the Amateur Service amongst his or her peer group. The candidate must have displayed initiative and good sportsmanship, with exemplary operation on the Amateur bands amongst peers.

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

The SARL has requested the Magalies Amateur Radio Club to set up a special event station at the Swartkops Air Force Museum during the National Science Engineering and Technology week which takes place from 5 to 10 May. It is planned to operate on all modes ie. radio telephony on all bands, packet radio, slow scan TV and weather images. The station will be on the air daily from 09:00 to 16:30. Visiting licensed radio amateurs are welcome to operate the station. The entrance to the site is along the old Pretoria/ Johannesburg road. More information will be made available in next week's bulletin.

#### SCOPEX EXHIBITION

The Astronomy Society of South Africa, Johannesburg Centre, is organising their second ScopeX Telescope and Astronomy Exhibition, on 10 May. The event will again be held at the SA National Museum of Military History in Saxonwold, next to the Johannesburg Zoo. ScopeX will run from 09:00 to 21:00 with a star party from about 18:00.

The Alberton Amateur Radio Club will also be involved at ScopeX and the special event station ZS6NOM will be on the air from the SA National Museum of Military History. Visit the Astronomy Society of South Africa, Johannesburg Centre's website at [www.aqua.co.za/assa\\_jhb.htm](http://www.aqua.co.za/assa_jhb.htm) for more information.

## VHF DIGITAL WORKSHOP

A VHF Digital Workshop will be held on Saturday, May 10 at the West Rand Club House starting at 09:00 and with talks and demonstrations planned lasting until mid-afternoon. The primary objective of the workshop is to introduce South African operators to the latest digital techniques being used in amateur VHF operation world-wide to make long distance contacts using meteor scatter, tropo and moonbounce or EME as it is commonly known.

The main theme of the day will be an introduction to Joe Taylor K1JT's WSJT software along with demonstrations of how it is used to make VHF DX contacts. Attendees will also find out what is necessary from an equipment standpoint including VHF and computer equipment and the antenna system requirements for VHF DX work.

VHF contesters will find the workshop especially interesting as a new Digital VHF and Microwave Contest is coming up very shortly and the WSJT software will allow contesters to add many additional points and multipliers to their score. A special session for contesters is planned that will include discussion of the new contest rules and how to plan your contest strategy to gain maximum points.

For additional information please contact Hal ZS6WB at cell 082-636-7001 or at email address [zs6wb@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs6wb@telkomsa.net)

## SARL INTECNET 2003 ON 18 MAY TO FOCUS ON WEAK SIGNAL RECEPTION

The SARL INTECNET 2003 on the air on May 18 will focus on the WSJT software and its unique use in weak signal communication, including meteor scatter communication. The developer of the software, Joe Taylor K1JT, will introduce the programme while several South African Radio Amateurs will share their experiences.

Clubs wishing to have their repeaters linked to the teleconference bridge, should send an email to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) with details of the coverage of their repeater, telephone number to be linked and the name and contact details of the person who will facilitate the event in their area. For more information on how to link the repeater, send a request for details to [armi@intekom.co.za](mailto:armi@intekom.co.za)

## SA AMSAT PRESENTS AMSATCON 2003

The SA AMSAT Amateur Radio Satellite Conference will be held on Saturday 24 May at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Gauteng. WorldSpace Southern Africa, who has provided sponsorship for the conference, has also made a WorldSpace satellite receiver available, which will be the main attendance prize for delegates attending the conference. If you would like to attend this conference visit the SARL Website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) for details or send an email to [saamsat@intekom.co.za](mailto:saamsat@intekom.co.za) to request conference documentation and regular updates.

## PEARS MID-YEAR MICROWAVE AND DIGITAL CONTEST

The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society has decided to introduce a mid-year Microwave & Digital contest. This is in response to requests from Division 6 amateurs.

The microwave contest will cover 1,3, 2,3, 5,6, 10, 24 and 47 GHz using all modes. The Digital contest covers 50, 144, 432 and 1 296 MHz using modes such as FSK441, JT6M, JT44 and PSK31. These two contests will run concurrently with one another. Amateurs may participate in both contests, but as separate entities.

The date for the first Microwave/Digital contest has been set for the long weekend of Friday 13 June to Sunday 15 June 2003. The purpose of this 48-hour contest is to encourage operation and experimentation on the bands and transmission modes of the future. Full details will be announced at a later date.

#### WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

World Amateur Radio Day was celebrated on 18 April 2003. Following a media release from the SA Amateur Radio development Trust, Martin Schwella ZS4MS was interviewed by the Volksblad newspaper and a photograph of him in his radio shack was published on 17 April in the newspaper. On Tuesday 22 April Pieter du Bois of OFM interviewed Martin for about six minutes on-air. OFM broadcasts in Central South Africa.

#### ZS3BLUE SPECIAL EVENT STATION

The five members of the Boland Amateur Radio Club who set up the special event station ZS3BLUE at Verneuk Pan returned home very satisfied with the operation. During the Saturday and Sunday they made some 250 contacts. On 80 and 40 metres they used a dipole and experimented with a HexBeam, six metres high, on 15 metres. The results were excellent and this is a good antenna for field stations. It transports very well and is not expensive to build. The Verneuk Pan site is very suitable for field stations, with the basic amenities available.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

Make a note of the following dates in your diary.

27 April SARL Presidents Net; 05 – 10 May Special event station from the National Science Engineering And Technology Week; 10 May Chairmen s Indaba at NARC Scopex Exhibition from the SA Military Museum and ZS6NOM on the air; VHF Digital Workshop at the West Rand Club; 17 May Radio Amateur Examination; 18 May SARL INTECNET; 24 May AMSATCON 2003 at the NARC; 25 May SARL Presidents Net; 13 – 15 June PEARS mid-year Microwave and Digital contest; 16 June SARL Kid's Day; 28 June Home Constructors Open Day at the West Rand Club.

This brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis ZS4BS and read by ..... from ..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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